

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, line 1, after the title and before "Background of the Invention", amend the first paragraph as follows, with a deletion of the question mark indicated by a strikethrough and its replacement by a slash indicated by underlining:

This application is a continuation of PCT~~?~~/EP02/05778 filed June 7, 2001.

In the specification, on page 5, delete the paragraph beginning on line 24 and replace it with the following paragraph, with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining:

Embodiments by way of example of the invention are described in greater detail hereinafter with reference to the drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a view in section of the probe arrangement with a hand portion (Figure 1a) and a distal probe tip (Figure 1b) and a partial, exploded, enlarged view of an inner conductor and a mating nut (Figure 1c),

Figure 2 shows a sectional view of the portion C in Figure 1a,

Figure 3 shows a rear view and a sectional view of a probe tip 11 from Figure 1b,

Figure 4 shows a front view and a sectional view of an insulator ring 12 from Figure 1b,

Figure 5 shows a rear and a sectional view of a shaft electrode 13 from Figure 1b,

Figure 6 shows a front and a sectional view of an inner conductor 10 from Figure 1b,

Figure 7 shows a front and a sectional view of an insulator 18 from Figure 1b,

Figure 8 shows a front and a sectional view of an outer conductor 19 from Figure 1b,

Figure 9 shows a front and a sectional view of an insulation tube 21 from Figure 1b,

Figure 10 shows a rear and a sectional view of a second hand portion element 4 from Figure 1a,

Figure 11 shows a front and a sectional view of a clamping ring 5 from Figure 1a,

Figure 12 shows a front and a sectional view of a first hand portion element 3 from Figure 1a, and

Figure 13 shows a sectional view of a probe arrangement according to the state of the art.

In the specification, on page 9, replace the paragraph that begins on line 24 with the following paragraph, with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining:

Figure 6 shows a front view and a sectional view of the inner conductor 10. The inner conductor 10 has a M1.4 screwthread both at its proximal end 10a and also at its distal end 10b. At the distal end 10b the inner conductor 10 has a through bore 16 in transverse relationship with longitudinal axis. The M screwthread at the distal end 10b of the inner conductor 10 can be screwed into the screwthreaded bore 17 of the tip electrode 11 while the M screwthread at the proximal end 10a, when the probe is completely assembled, appears out of the longitudinal bore of the hand portion element 3. The inner conductor 10 can be screwed against the hand portion element 3 by means of the nut ~~81-80~~ which is screwed onto the M screwthread. This is depicted in FIG. 1c. The inner conductor 10 is preferably produced in the form of a metal tube from V2A steel. The use of a metal tube affords the advantage that the metal tube serves as an electrical feed line to the first electrode, for the supply of the cooling medium and for increasing stiffness and breaking strength.